



The E-newsletter of the Mid-Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

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MRMPO and MRCOG Transportation News

Household Travel Survey in the Home Stretch

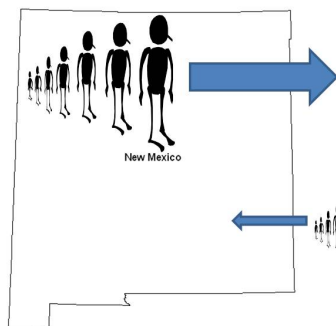


As of January 29, more than 2,000 households have completed all aspects of the Mid-Region Household Travel Survey, meaning MRMPO is more than 80 percent of the way to its target of 2,400 participating households. The survey is a comprehensive effort to understand the ways that residents across Bernalillo, Sandoval, and Valencia Counties travel and how behavior varies depending on housing location, income, vehicle ownership rates, household size and other factors. More information about the survey can be found at www.keepnewmexicomoving.com. MRMPO expects results of the survey to be finalized by the end of April.

State Migration Statistics Reflect Sluggish Economy

Population estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau show that in recent years, the State of New Mexico has been losing more people than it has attracted, resulting in *negative net migration*. It is estimated that New Mexico lost 10,000 people due to domestic migration between 2012 and 2013, and a total of 15,000 people in the three years since 2010. This loss has been offset by natural increase (births minus deaths), but just barely, placing New Mexico among the slowest growing states in the nation and the slowest growing state in the southwest region. Since 2010, the state has grown by about 26,000 (1.3 percent).

County level data is not yet available for 2013. However between 2011 and 2012, Bernalillo, Tarrant and Valencia Counties combined had a net loss of about 2,000 people to domestic migration. Sandoval County was one of just five counties in the state to experience a net gain in domestic migration (+600) over that time. It is important to note that despite negative net migration, the region saw overall population growth between 2011 and 2012 due to natural reproduction.



In light of recent reports on slow population growth, it is reasonable to wonder how this may influence MRCOG's future traffic forecasts. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) forecasts a 25-year planning horizon in order to anticipate future transportation needs. As such, near term events including fluctuations in migration are not perceived as a threat to the long range forecast. This is because long range population

projections are designed to smooth out year-to-year volatility by relying on birth, death and migration trends observed over a long period of time. Population Projections for the MTP will be based on University of New Mexico's Geospatial and Population Studies Group's New Mexico County Population Projections July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2040, released in 2012.

It is impossible to say for certain what the future holds for our region. The Albuquerque Metropolitan Area has experienced unprecedented job loss over the last several years. While surrounding states have seen a rebound in economic activity, our employment growth continues to be extremely slow. Current efforts to identify and capitalize on our strengths, develop homegrown talent, and retain our well-educated residents are likely to yield economic benefits that may also be reflected in our migration activity. At MRCOG, we will be watching the indicators and commit to ensuring that each MTP reflects the most recent information available.

ITS Subcommittee Working on Establishing Priority Corridors and Strategies

Resuming its normal meeting schedule this month, the ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) Subcommittee will be establishing a list of priority corridors and priority ITS strategies that can be programmed through the next Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Such strategies can include, but are not limited to "adaptive signal control" and other signal systems/communications upgrades, improved coordination with first responders for incident management, and transit supportive measures such as queue jumpers and transit priority as

applicable. The group will continue to focus on the roadway operations along river crossings and select congested corridors and will be spending the next few months updating the ITS Corridor Profiles to capture current ITS improvements programmed in the TIP. This will allow the committee the opportunity to monitor implementation of ITS projects, support inter agency coordination, and conduct gap analysis on ITS needs.

February Calendar

Institutionalizing Bikeshare Transit Systems--Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals webinar	Feb. 5, 1-2:30pm	MRCOG 1st Floor Conference Room
Design for Cyclist and Pedestrian Comfort--Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals webinar	Feb. 19, 1-2:30pm	MRCOG 1st Floor Conference Room
Metropolitan Transportation Board (MTB) meeting	Feb. 21, 10:00am	MRCOG Board Room
Rio Metro Board meeting	Feb. 21, 1:00pm	MRCOG Board Room

Transportation News and Information

A Walking School District

Lakewood, Ohio's school district of about 5,800 students has achieved something few other districts have: they are a "walking school district" that does not bus in any students. The district's schools were intentionally sited in such a way that every student lives within two miles of school. Benefits have included money saved by eliminating a need for buses (an estimated savings of about \$1 million a year).

[\[MORE\]](#)

2014 Roadmap of State Highway Safety Laws Released, Includes Recommendations for New Mexico

The Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety have released their eleventh annual review of highway safety laws, which assesses how states are doing in terms of adopting its 15 recommended laws that improve public safety.



According to the report, New Mexico--which had 365 fatalities in 2012 and an annual economic cost due to motor vehicle crashes of \$1.40 billion--needs to enact several highway safety laws including an all-rider motorcycle helmet law, a booster seat law through age seven, and an all-driver text messaging restriction, as well as others. [[MORE](#)]

Buses will Soon be Accepting Mobile Tickets from Rail Runner Passengers



Starting February 10, Rail Runner passengers who use mobile e-tickets on their smartphones for their train ride can now use those same tickets to board any Rio Metro, ABQ RIDE or Santa Fe Trails bus--no more paper ticket for the free transfer required! To learn more

about mobile ticketing, [click here](#).

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